

Rules Statement
H.R. 761, the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act

I appreciate you holding this hearing and request a structured rule for the consideration of H.R. 761, the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act.

Sponsored by House Natural Resources Committee Member Mark Amodei, this is a bipartisan bill to allow the United States to more efficiently develop our Nation's strategic and critical minerals that are vital to job creation, American economic competitiveness and national security.

Currently, the U.S. is nearly 100 percent dependent on foreign countries, such as China, for rare earth elements and other critical and strategic minerals.

This bill will help end that dependence by cutting red-tape and streamlining the permitting process for mineral development. Instead of taking over a decade to acquire all the government permits for mineral production, H.R. 761 sets the total review process for permitting at 30 months.

According to a report, the U.S. currently ranks last, along with Papua New Guinea, in permitting delays out of twenty-five major mining countries. This is unacceptable.

Critical minerals are vital to entire sectors of our economy— from manufacturing to high-tech to national defense to medical care. Our economic and natural security are dependent on the timely and responsible development of our Nation's mineral supplies. It's time to pass H.R. 761 and end the bureaucratic delays that block access to our critical mineral resources.